

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner ~~of the kind~~ having a base (1, 1') including floor-cleaning arrangement, a housing (3, 3') mounted above the base for collecting material cleaned from the floor and a handle (6, 6') by which a user can ~~manoeuvre~~ maneuver the cleaner, the cleaner including a hose assembly (10, 10') having a first end (17, 17') attached with the cleaner towards ~~the~~ a lower end of the cleaner and a second, free end (19), ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hose assembly includes a hose (11, 11') ~~of the kind~~ having a natural extended length and ~~that can be retracted~~ being retractable to a shorter length by occluding passage of air through the hose assembly toward ~~its~~ the free end (19), ~~that~~ wherein the assembly includes a tubular wand (12, 12') slidable coaxially relatively to the hose such that the hose and wand can be stowed on the cleaner, and ~~that~~ wherein the cleaner includes an arrangement (21, 21') for receiving the ~~stowed~~ hose assembly stowed in a generally vertical orientation.

2. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wand (12) is slidable inside the hose (11).

3. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wand is slidable outside the hose (11').

4. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein the wand (12, 12') includes a manually-operable valve (20, 20') by which passage of air along the hose assembly (10, 10') can be occluded.

5. (Currently amended) The vacuum cleaner according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein the length of the wand (12, 12') is substantially the same as that of the hose (11, 11') when the hose is retracted to the shorter length.

6. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein the arrangement for receiving the ~~stowed~~ hose assembly (10, 10') includes a fitting (21, 21') on the cleaner adapted to engage the free end (19) ~~of the wand (12, 12')~~.

7. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fitting (21, 21') is on the handle (6, 6') of the cleaner.

8. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein the wand (12, 12') has a first flange (18, 18') at one end thereof, said first flange being adapted to engage and seal with a second flange (15, 15') towards the free end ~~of the hose (11, 11')~~ when the wand is in a fully extended position.

9. (Currently amended) A hose assembly (10, 10') for a vacuum cleaner according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1.~~